

PACIFIC CITIZEN



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Myer Refuses Dies Committee Request to Halt Resettlement; Asks Restraint on Investigation

Committee Hearings Begin at Los Angeles with Officials from Poston Testifying in Executive Session; Expected to Continue Over Ten Days

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority has in effect refused to comply with the request of the House Committee investigating un-American activities, headed by Rep. Dies of Texas, to withhold release of evacuees from the relocation centers until the committee completes its inquiry into pre-Pearl Harbor affiliations and activities of Japanese Americans reputedly connected with subversive groups, Warren B. Francis, staff correspondent of the Los Angeles Times, reported last Friday.

The WRA head, according to Francis, also asked to have the Dies Committee restrain its chief investigator, Robert E. Stripling, on the ground that his "irresponsible" accusations against Japanese Americans and the WRA are "interfering" with the war effort and hampering the evacuee resettlement program.

The Times correspondent added that Myer, in letters to all members of the Dies Committee, brushed aside a demand by Rep. Thomas of New Jersey, a member of the committee, that the plan of relocating evacuees over different sections of the country be shelved because of the possibility that dangerous individuals might be turned loose.

Thomas had suggested that the WRA wait for the committee's findings before granting freedom to more evacuees.

Myer, the Times report said, repeated previous denials that evacuees are receiving special treatment and asked the committee to produce detailed evidence in support of charges that American-born Japanese specially trained in sabotage and espionage are among those released.

The WRA chief also stated that

Government to Handle Task On Machinery

Idle Farm Equipment Problem Turned Over To Federal Agency

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Temporarily shelving its own new enabling law, the State last week virtually handed over to the Federal government the task of turning over to California farmers farm implements stored by evacuees, the International News Service reported.

State Director of Agriculture William J. Cecil admitted he has directed southern California field representatives to halt their efforts to locate and distribute the machinery, instructing them to co-operate with the United States Department of Agriculture war boards, the INS report said.

"The State has done some inventory work and that's about all," Cecil said. "We will turn over the information we have gathered to the war boards and they will do the work."

Assemblyman Lloyd Lowery of Rumsey, who sponsored the move to put idle agricultural equipment at the disposal of California farmers, declared the Federal government's willingness to take over the program would save the State both time and money.

"The legislation was introduced primarily to stimulate Federal action," he said. "With the war boards administering the program, the State will be able to concentrate on recruiting and placing farm labor."

Lowery declared, however, that should the Federal government fail to do "an adequate job" the State always could "fall back on its own resources, granted under the new law."

all persons permitted to leave the centers are subject to being apprehended and returned if they commit hostile or disloyal acts, it was added.

LOS ANGELES — Hearings on evacuee relocation conducted by a subcommittee of the Dies Committee on un-American activities opened here in the federal building Tuesday with officials of the Poston, Ariz., relocation center appearing to testify in executive session, the Associated Press reported.

Ralph M. Gelvin, associate director at the Arizona center, testified at the first day's hearing that 2000 of the 17,000 evacuees originally sent to the center have been released, either permanently or on a seasonal basis.

Gelvin also told the investigating group that meat was available at the center in adequate quantities, and admitted that new and inexperienced help had been the cause of food wastage.

Asked if the "gangster element" at the camp was centered around exponents of jiu-jitsu, Gelvin said he had once thought so, but that a later inquiry disproved that belief.

Previously the witness stated that Poston evacuees worked when they wished to and that when they declined, other labor was employed. He said evacuees are paid from \$16 to \$19 a month, while other workers are paid \$8 a day.

If the evacuees have any money, they do not have to work, he testified. "Their subsistence is provided, though they don't have to work if they don't want to," he was quoted.

Gelvin expressed the belief that the small wages paid evacuees (Continued on Page 8).

Ships for War Program Being Constructed in Arizona Desert

Crew of 25 Evacuees Build Models for Navy Use at Gila River Shipyard; More Than 40 Warships Launched Since Middle of March

RIVERS, Ariz.—Ships are being built in the Arizona desert, the Associated Press reported last week.

The ships will never fire a shot, but they are nevertheless playing an important part in the war program.

They are model ships — exact replicas of the von Tirpitz and Admiral Scheer and a host of other battlewagons of the Axis enemy — and are being constructed by loyal Japanese Americans who were evacuated from the Pacific Coast.

The supervisor of the Gila River shipyard is Oscar Julius, who formerly operated a model ship factory in New York and supplied ship models to the United States Navy. Julius has trained 25 Japanese American workers who are working in his "shipyard" here.

Mr. Julius, according to the AP, saw the possibility of employing loyal nisei at the relocation center on ship model construction and arranged to secure the plans for the start of the work from the navy department. The plans were

MASAOKA NOW BUCK PRIVATE IN U. S. ARMY

Mike Masaoka, Executive Secretary of the National Japanese American Citizens League, returned to Salt Lake City from his duties in Washington on Thursday, June 3, and was duly inducted the next morning into the U. S. Army as a buck private. His induction took place at the induction station.

After a two-week furlough, during which time he hopes to wind up personal and official business, he will report for basic training at Camp Shelby.

Masaoka will be on leave from the JACL for the duration. Masaoka's successor as Executive Secretary of the JACL had not been named at the time of his induction.

Middle West Suggested for Resettlement

Residents of Centers Are Urged to Consider Rich Farming Areas

RIVERS, Ariz. — Speaking here recently, M. C. White, relocation officer from Nebraska and Iowa regions, urged that residents consider the rich agricultural areas of the Middle West as localities for resettlement, the News-Courier reports.

White disclosed that truck cropping is not practical except on farms near large cities. The relatively stable rewards of diversified farming are more attractive to the Mid-Westerners, he said.

According to White, the average farm raises milk cows, beef cattle, pigs and sheep, and grows plenty of fodder. Each one has a small plot of ground for a vegetable garden. Much of such vegetables are canned for consumption in the winter months.

In certain areas sugar beets are grown extensively, and in others fruit farming plays an important part, White said.

Ships for War Program Being Constructed in Arizona Desert

supplied and three models of each ship were constructed to be submitted to naval authorities for approval. They are used in training programs and for identification purposes. The third naval district also uses models in camouflage experiments.

The models are usually built on a scale of one inch to fifty feet, although some are 60 feet to the inch. It is often necessary to redraw the plans in order to change the scale.

The twenty-five evacuee workmen employed on the ship model construction have completed more than 40 models since the middle of March. Each new person coming to work is given a thorough course in the operation of power machinery and tools plus the training necessary for hand shaping of the tiny parts.

It is expected that 50 or more models of each of the different types of naval craft will be produced and furnished to the navy department.

Masaoka, S. J. D. 12 5-31-43

JACL Will Contest Legality of Restrictive Law in Arizona

Citizens Being Denied Right to Conduct Normal Transactions; Even Dental Treatment Denied

Terming it a "vicious law," Mike Masaoka, executive secretary of the National JACL, disclosed this week the JACL will contest the legality of the recently enacted Arizona law (House bill No. 187) that is having the effect of making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for persons of Japanese descent to continue with their livelihood in the state.

"We have just heard from our Arizona chapter," Masaoka said, "that this law has created a state in which, for example, a lady cannot buy face powder from a druggist; a dentist cannot do work on persons of Japanese ancestry; and farmers cannot buy crates or boxes for their produce. These are just a few of the many illustrations which show how vicious and un-American this law is."

This law, which was signed by Governor Sidney P. Osborn on March 23, 1943, and became immediately operative, requires public notice and a report to the secretary of state of any commercial transaction undertaken by any person with a "person whose movements are restricted by operation of law or by any executive or other order authorized by law, or from a person who is not eligible to citizenship."

"Although the law is framed with specific reference to persons not eligible to citizenship, which would include the issue, this is not true with respect to 'free zone' nisei who were not evacuated," Masaoka pointed out. "No restrictions of movement have been placed on 'free-zone' nisei, except that they cannot enter prohibited areas without special permission. But there are numerous defense zones and factories which are closed to all citizens without special passes, and therefore this law could not be applied to the nisei without applying it to all residents of the United States."

"However, its application has been confined to persons of Japanese ancestry. Undoubtedly, the Standard Oil company has sold gas to others to whom this law could be made to apply, but action was taken against the company only in regard to sales made to native-born Arizonians of Japanese ancestry. The Standard Oil company, in this instance, pleaded guilty and paid the fine required.

"Fearing similar state action against them, the residents of Arizona, in general, are refusing to deal with persons of Japanese ancestry because they do not want to go to the trouble of making a public notice and a report to the secretary of state, and they do not want to be persecuted for 'violations' of the law."

The law provides that "failure to comply with any provision of this act is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$1000, imprisonment of not less than 30 days, nor more than six months, or both. The making of any false statement, in either the notice or the report prescribed by this act is a felony, punishable by not less than one nor more than three years' imprisonment."

"This situation," Masaoka continued, "has apparently been created by unscrupulous parties, taking advantage of wartime hysteria, as a means of driving residents of Japanese ancestry out of the state."

Attorneys Retained
Masaoka revealed that the Arizona JACL has already retained Judge Lockwood, who served on the Arizona state supreme court for 18 years, and Attorney Cox, a Phoenix lawyer, to contest the law before the Arizona courts. If necessary, the matter will be taken (Continued on Page 6).

Hosokawa Asks Action Against Dies Committee

Certain Politicians Disgrace to Democracy, Says Sentinel Editor

CODY, Wyo. — Bill Hosokawa, editor of the Heart Mountain Sentinel, evacuee newspaper of the Heart Mountain relocation center, was reported by the Associated Press as having asked the American press last Saturday to "expose the fraudulent, un-American activities of certain politicians who are a disgrace to democracy."

Hosokawa, formerly of Seattle, Washington, and a professional newspaperman, charged the Dies committee with circulation of "vicious untruths calculated to slander and libel a loyal American minority."

"We are told," he said in his statement, "that we are doing a patriotic duty by evacuating from the west coast. Now demagogues are telling the American people that we were evacuated because we were disloyal."

"The government owes it to us, as loyal Americans despite our Japanese faces, to refute the attacks of sensation seekers who further their selfish aims and vent their prejudices on people who cannot answer back."

Hosokawa added: "Ask the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice where the disloyal Japanese aliens are."

Nisei Seamen Reported Lost, Missing at Sea

RIVERS, Ariz. — Several nisei seamen, whose names cannot be disclosed at present, are reported lost or missing in line of duty, according to a letter received here by the Gila News-Courier from Paul S. Higa, secretary of the Japanese American Maritime Workers committee.

Several others have gone through the experience of being torpedoed and bombed and are going back for more, Higa said in his letter. At present more than 50 seamen are either actually engaged or are waiting to sail from New York.

Plans for the use of nisei seamen on the Great Lakes have been approved by the Navy, Army and the FBI. For sailing on the Atlantic, the War and Navy Departments, the War Shipping Administration, and the WRA have formed a joint board to consider individual cases.

Higa revealed that three members of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific — S. Kubota, R. Miyashiro and S. Sasahara — were or are on the project.

Coast Congressmen Question Myer on Relocation; Decide To Ask McCloy to Conference

WRA Director Reported as Denying Any Plans To Return Evacuees to West Coast; Suggests Relocation May Serve to Disperse Evacuees

WASHINGTON — Serving notice on the War Relocation Authority that Pacific Coast residents do not want any Japanese or Japanese-Americans returned to the Western Defense Command zone, California's Congressional delegation decided last week to summon Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy for a conference about threatened relaxation of evacuation orders issued by Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt, Warren B. Francis of the Los Angeles Times Washington Bureau reported.

Representative Lea of Santa Rosa, delegation chairman, was instructed to request McCloy to meet with the group.

The delegation, according to Francis, decided to carry the fight against return of the evacuees to the War Department after Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, disclaimed responsibility for deciding where the persons released from relocation centers are allowed to go.

The California group questioned Myer about WRA policies and discussed many phases of the relocation program, it was said. Myer denied fostering any plans to return evacuees to their former homes and suggested the entire relocation program, under proper direction, might permanently break up evacuee concentration in the western states.

The WRA head suggested that, by releasing the evacuees in small numbers to jobs in different parts of the country, the government will prevent development of future "Little Tokyos," one legislator was reported as saying. Myer was said to have emphasized his desire to spread evacuees over widely separated communities in order to bring about their assimilation and discourage clannishness.

All decisions about where the released evacuees may go, except that they must be acceptable in the community, are made by the War Department, Myer maintained.

The California body was told that segregation of suspicious or unfriendly evacuees is being pushed as rapidly as possible, and that virtually all subversive aliens already have been transferred to internment camps.

Myer denied that evacuees are being "pampered," receive bigger allowances of rationed or scarce foods than the general population, or have hidden large numbers of badly needed motor vehicles and farm equipment.

Soldiers' Mothers Seek To Cancel Nisei Citizenship

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — An organization of mothers of men in a Coast Artillery unit now overseas last week submitted to President Roosevelt and other high officials in Washington a resolution urging that United States citizenship be denied American-born Japanese, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The servicemen's mothers also protested release of evacuees from relocation camps.

"We recommend that American-born Japanese be forever barred from citizenship in the United States even though it would require an amendment to the Constitution to accomplish this," the resolution stated, "since their racial ideologies prevent them from ever becoming strictly loyal Americans."

The Times also reported delegates to the 24th annual convention of American War Mothers in Long Beach had voiced vigorous opposition to the policies of the War Relocation Authority and to any plan designed to return evacuees to the west coast.

Roland Swaffield, a Long Beach attorney who spoke before the mothers' group, was quoted as declaring:

"What the United States needs most today is more love for the nation and less concern about wages, hours and Japs."

Seattle Visit of Nisei Soldiers Is Without "Incidents"

SEATTLE, Wash.—The Seattle Daily Times, in a front-page article on May 27, noted that a visit to the city of six nisei soldiers of the U. S. Army passed without "any untoward incidents." Four of the group were former Seattle residents.

"Despite fears which have been expressed by some authorities that permitting Japanese to visit the west coast might result in racial demonstrations or violence, no such demonstrations occurred.

"The Japanese American soldiers ate in Seattle restaurants, and no reports were received of any untoward incidents. Their own conduct while here apparently was circumspect."

Veterans Will Urge Retention Of Gen. DeWitt

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco branch of the Disabled War Veterans announced last Friday that it will present at the California state convention of that organization this month a resolution demanding there be "no relaxation of controls" over evacuees now in relocation centers and requesting that Gen. John L. DeWitt be retained as commander of the Western Defense area, the San Francisco Examiner reported.

The resolution, according to the Examiner, points out that "a vast majority of these Japanese, whether native born or foreign born, have and retain an inseparable attachment for the Emperor and the Imperial Government of Japan," and further that there are no "methods or standards whereby the claimed American patriotism of these people can be judged or proved."

General DeWitt, the resolution says, "has demonstrated all of the qualifications of an excellent military commander, and has gained and merited the respect and confidence" of the peoples of the Pacific coast.

The veterans group requests that, in the event military necessity should cause DeWitt's transfer, his policies "be maintained with the utmost vigor and without any relaxation whatsoever."

Copies of the resolution are to be sent to President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson and California's congressional delegation.

Native Sons and Company Not Representative of All of West

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A recent letter to the Sacramento Bee protested an editorial entitled "West Is Solidly Against Japanese Return."

Citing the existence of such a group as the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the writer of the letter said the "committee does not share in the attitude expressed by the American Legion, the Native Sons of the Golden West, and others of a similar nature.

"Thus, to say their opinion is 'universal' of the people of California is a distortion of the truth, is it not?" the letter continued.

The letter, written by Berniece Lawrence of Parlier, Calif., was printed in the Bee as follows:

"May a reader of the Bee express an opinion based upon the fact and differing from the one expressed in the editorial appearing in the issue of the Bee of May 29th, entitled West Is Solidly Against Japanese Return?"

"The opening sentence of paragraph 2, referring to the preceding paragraph, stated: 'That is the universal opinion,' etc. The dictionary meaning given for universal is 'all' or 'including all.'"

"Although the Bee in this editorial does not recognize it, there is a group, a fairly substantial group, here on the west coast known as the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, whose purpose is to maintain un-

Good Work Done By National Staff

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Japanese American Citizens League has had eastern representatives since May of 1942. Mike Masaoka and George Inagaki came to Washington, D. C., to establish contacts with the War Relocation Authority and with the various church and social service agencies with national headquarters in New York City and Philadelphia. And ever since, someone has been representing the JACL.

Now, however, all the representatives have left. Tooru Kanazawa is already at Camp Shelby, Miss., with the nisei combat team; George Inagaki has gone to Camp Savage, Minn., and Mike Masaoka, the national secretary, has returned to Salt Lake City to be inducted for the nisei combat team.

I do not know the extent of appreciation the nisei feel toward these three workers who represented their interests, but I have come to find that they have performed excellent work. At the special conference held in New York City by the JACL, at which organizations interested in the resettlement of evacuees and civil rights of nisei were present, the necessity of an Eastern representative was strongly stressed. This sentiment undoubtedly was due to the fine impression created by the three workers who represented the organization.

Unfortunately, the JACL will not be able to have a representative for a while because it is difficult to find a qualified man at the low wage scale being paid the staff members. Private and government jobs are plentiful, at attractive prices, for those with ability. So it seems foolish to consider a job which has its woes and tribulations without adequate compensation unless one is imbued with a zeal for the cause.

Funds Will Be Needed Soon

There is a definite need for a revamping of the JACL set-up. Numerous friends have suggested the possibility of soliciting funds from friends in the East. Before I return to Salt Lake City, I am canvassing this field to have some idea of the prospects.

Without funds no organization can function adequately. There is no doubt that the JACL has been carrying on a job which was far beyond its means. It was able to

impaired the liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

"The committee, which was organized to help protect the rights of all American citizens regardless of ancestry, through supporting the principles enunciated in the Constitution of the United States, believes attacks upon the rights of any minority tend to undermine the rights of the majority; the legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of any of their legal rights would set a precedent for depriving other racial groups of their rights, and would weaken the confidence of our Allies, particularly those in Asia and Latin America, in the sincerity of our profession to be fighting for the rights of all people; and that it is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent in the United States solely for the crimes of the government and military caste of Japan.

"The committee does not share in the attitude expressed by the American Legion, the Native Sons of the Golden West, and others of a similar nature. Thus, to say their opinion is 'universal' is a distortion of the truth, is it not?"

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play does not wish to be an exclusive group. It would welcome the support of all who believe in the spirit as well as the letter of the law laid down by our Constitution, and more especially it would welcome recognition, if not a measure of support, from the editor of the Bee."

TIMELY TOPICS

By SABURO KIDO

do so because the staff members were willing to sacrifice their personal welfare. I believe we all must be grateful to Mike Masaoka, George Inagaki and Tooru Kanazawa for the contributions they have made to the welfare of the nisei as a whole.

The JACL has been appearing as "amicus curiae (friend of court)" in several cases; the abortive attempt of the Native Sons of the Golden West to deprive the nisei of their citizenship status; the evacuation case of Gordon Hirabayashi; the curfew case of Minoru Yasui; and the Oshiro case which is testing the right of an evacuee to terminate his contract because of the orders to leave California.

These items were outside of the budget which was approved last November. The JACL has been fortunate in that the various chapters have been donating the balances of their treasuries. Once this source of revenue is depleted, a great deal of activity, especially test cases, must be abandoned for lack of funds.

Opportunity For Resettlement

The nisei have gone through a great emotional crisis. Any group with less fortitude would have given up hope. But I believe the large majority came through with flying colors when the loyalty test was given. For those who expect to remain in this country, there is still the great task of rehabilitation which can come only through resettlement. It is generally conceded that now is the opportune time because of the shortage of manpower. Even though there is an underlying fear of public reaction when actual warfare in the Pacific area is intensified, the risk must be taken.

The Chandler sub-military affairs committee has made three recommendations, one of them being the emptying of the relocation centers as soon as possible. In this (Continued on Page 7).

NYA Training For Evacuees Is Cancelled

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The War Relocation Authority announced last week that the National Youth Administration has cancelled an agreement to give work training to some young Japanese Americans released from relocation centers, an Associated Press report disclosed.

The WRA declared that the NYA dropped its evacuee training plans "following the recent unfounded allegations made by an investigator for the Dies committee, who said . . . that many Japanese Americans who have been released were trained in Japan in espionage and sabotage."

Evacuees who had been attending NYA training schools in various western states were sent back to their relocation centers following the announcement.

Meanwhile, it was learned in other quarters that the NYA will "rescue everything possible of such alternative training plans as may be worked out."

NYA Students To Be Placed in Other Employment

HUNT, Idaho—The WRA is offering special aid to Hunt youths affected by the recent decision of the NYA schools to discontinue training of all nisei, according to the Minidoka Irrigator.

H. Rex Lee, relocation supervisor in Salt Lake City, Utah, last week informed Placement Officer Joseph G. Beeson that the WRA would provide these students transportation and full subsistence "till they are placed in an earning capacity" in Cleveland and Chicago.

Machinists would be placed in Cleveland, welders in Chicago, auto mechanics in either city and power sewing machine operators in Denver, Lee said. In addition, priority on jobs in the intermountain district for those not wishing to go to midwest cities was promised the former NYA students.

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Arizona's Squeeze Play

It is incredible, but there is a state in the union where a certain law is in operation the intended effect of which is to make it practically impossible for certain citizens to continue living within the boundaries of that state.

The state is Arizona. The law may be found in Arizona's statute books by looking for House Bill No. 187. And the victims of this crowning work of legalized racial discrimination are wartime America's most defenseless home front casualties—her citizens of Japanese descent.

The law has been in force since March 23 of this year. It relates to dealings with persons whose movements are restricted, presents conditions under which such dealings may be had, declares an emergency, and prescribes penalties for any person found guilty of its violation.

A person is guilty of violating this law if he fails to give public notice and make a report to the secretary of state of any commercial transaction under any contract, agreement or understanding, written or verbal, and involving the purchase, sale, trade or exchange of any real or personal property, commodity or thing, except goods, wares and merchandise for personal consumption, from any "person whose movements are restricted by operation of law or by any executive or other order authorized by law, or from a person who is not eligible to citizenship."

As JACL executive secretary Mike Masooka comments elsewhere in this issue of The Pacific Citizen, the measure "has created a state in which, for example, a lady cannot buy face powder from a druggist; a dentist cannot do work on persons of Japanese ancestry; and farmers cannot buy crates or boxes for their produce. These are just a few of the many illustrations which show how vicious and un-American this law is."

Because there are many defense zones and plants from which are excluded not only Japanese Americans, but all citizens without special, registered passes, the law is applicable to all residents of the United States. However, its application, as intended by its authors, is restricted to individuals of Japanese ancestry. Arizonans in general are refusing to deal with persons of Japanese descent because it is too much trouble to make a separate notice—"not less than three times in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the principal place of business . . . is located"—for each separate transaction, not to mention the required filing of a separate report on each of the same, separate deals.

Obviously, the law is a crude and daring instrument for making life unbearable for the few residents of Japanese ancestry in Arizona by denying to them the elementary needs of ordinary, daily existence. It is a squeeze play strictly against the rules, and it is the ultimate in understatement to describe it as viciously un-American.

To permit such a law to remain in force, unchallenged and unstripped of its repugnant nature and effect, is, of course, unthinkable. Arizona's contrariness notwithstanding, the United States has not and will not adopt Hitlerian policies in the treatment of her racial minorities. It is on this premise that the Japanese American Citizens League will fight the Arizona law and carry the fight, should it prove necessary, all the way to the Supreme Court.

That "California Mind"

The limit to which the splenetic arguments against extending basic citizenship rights to Japanese Americans are carried by those who are cursed with what columnist Bill Hosokawa has dubbed "the California mind" is probably best indicated by their stand on the War Department's policy of permitting Uncle Sam's nisei soldiers to enter the evacuated western defense zone on furloughs.

It apparently is not enough for "the California mind" to err with its constant conjuring of the horrors which will be visited upon the United States if evacuees continue to be released from the relocation centers. It is not enough that its venality becomes increasingly repugnant to the democratic sensibilities of an America more interested in terminating the threat of Axis domination over the world than in whipping up the spirit and atmosphere of a lynching party in those areas of the national scene where Japanese Americans are trying to prove that their hearts beat in rhythm with the battle hymns of the Republic.

It does not sufficiently satisfy "the California mind" to heap gargantuan lies and insults upon the civilian Japanese American who is almost defenseless and who is bearing with exemplary patriotism a life that has been proscribed much more by the war than that of most fellow civilian citizens. To feed its hunger for hate, "the California mind" aims its slanderous, malicious intentions in still another direction and seeks to cast an ugly pall of suspicion upon the Japanese American in the uniform of the United States Army.

Of course, "the California mind," philistine and short of reason as it may be, knows when to hedge, when to make qualifications and when to shift its argumentative weight. So it can advance assurances, as was recently done by the chairman of California's "Little Dies Committee," State Senator Jack B. Tenney, that no reflections are meant to be cast on the Japanese American soldier when his presence on the west coast is criticized. Only after this self-protective assurance is given is it said that the free movement of the nisei soldier in west coast areas exposes coastal defenses to sabotage and espionage, that it may result in outbreaks of violence and physical harm to nisei servicemen, that the policy gives the strategists of Imperial Japan an opportunity to smuggle ashore, via submarines, saboteurs and spies dressed in American khaki and undistinguishable to the general west coast population.

It does not matter to the possessor of "the California mind" that he would have an exceedingly tough time deciding which is which if a Japanese American soldier, a Chinese American soldier and a Filipino soldier were to be presented to him side by side. He would probably damn all three as "Japs."

That is "the California mind," and mind you, that mind is a menace to more than Japanese Americans.

Good Example

Citizens of Des Moines have given an object lesson to the country by opening their homes to 50 American-born Japanese while they await employment in the state of Iowa. These are educated young men and women, patriotically devoted to the United States and seeking the double opportunity of proving their devotion and earning a living. Their handicap is the prejudice created against them, first, by the barbarous conduct of the Japanese Army and government, and, second, by such things as the false and irresponsible remark of Gen. DeWitt that "a Jap is a Jap" regardless of American birth, citizenship, education and loyalty.

It is a source of concern that the National Youth Administration suddenly withdrew from the arrangement for training American-born Japanese as war workers. No explanation is given, but the thought is bound to suggest itself that the NYA itself is under such bitter and unfair attack from reactionaries in Congress that it does not feel like undertaking work that might increase the prejudice against it. The attitude of the Des Moines community is a happy contrast to that of the self-appointed superpatriots who think race and color govern the right of Americans to love their country and to share in the blessings of citizenship.

The well-established contrast between these Americans of Japanese descent and those against whom we are fighting demonstrates that the nature of education, not race, is the foremost problem in assuring future peace.—*Editorial in Chicago Sun, June 5.*

"Back to America" Newsman Writes of Evacuation And Promise of Resettlement

By DYKE MIYAGAWA

The thousands of nisei evacuees who are still living abnormal lives behind barbed wire often wonder if the cards are stacked against them. They cannot help but note that many if not most newspaper statements on the evacuee resettlement question are unfavorable, and anxiety and apprehension cloud the individual evacuees' plans for "going back to America."

Not all that is said about the evacuee in the newspapers, however, is said against him. Much is being said in his favor—

to familiarize the generally open-minded American public with what the evacuee is up against and with what the evacuee really stands for—and some of it is being said by nisei writers, themselves but a few weeks away from the insulated existence of a relocation center.

A very recent case in point—and a very talented one—is Robert Hosokawa, pre-evacuation Seattleite, president of his senior class at Whitman College, a Phi Beta Kappa member, and younger brother of widely-known Bill Hosokawa who edits the Heart Mountain Sentinel.

The younger Hosokawa, who left the Minidoka relocation center in Idaho about two months ago with his wife to take a job as copy editor on a suburban weekly newspaper in the outskirts of Kansas City, Mo., authored one of the lead feature articles in the May 22 issue of the Christian Science Monitor's weekly magazine section.

In a two-page story augmented by pictures of relocation center life, Hosokawa writes of his own experiences as an evacuee, of the experiences of thousands of other "Americans with Japanese Faces," and tells the whole history of evacuation and the promise of resettlement.

Of center life he writes: "There were many physical inconveniences . . . but most of us never lost sight of the only thing which mattered—our country was at war, fighting totalitarianism in a desperate battle."

"Contrary to accusations given wide publicity, we were never pampered, never coddled. Our living was crude and almost always limited to a plane of bare necessity. When we read reports in the papers of our luxurious quarters and lavish food, we resented deeply these untruths by ignorant politicians."

Hosokawa makes it clear that the evacuee problem is far from solved. He cites the many difficulties involved in the execution of the War Relocation Authority's resettlement program, especially in the case of the issei who "have spent their best years in America, cutting all ties with the land of their birth" and "who have had many heartaches and have seen many dreams fade away."

Of his own adventures in resettlement, he says it has not been totally free of embarrassments. Three readers of the newspaper on which he works cancelled their subscriptions when they learned the paper was about to hire "a Jap rat." A meeting of church elders became stormy when it was suggested that Hosokawa and his wife be invited to attend services. Two war workers walked out of a restaurant because of his presence.

"On the other hand," Hosokawa reports, "people have gone out of their way to be kind to us. In spite of the housing congestion, we have a neat little apartment. We

Gila Residents Entertained By Indian Chiefs

RIVERS, Ariz. — Residents of Gila, who are living on an Indian reservation, were recently entertained by nine members of the Choctaw and Pueblo tribes, who presented a program of seven dances and two songs.

The program was as follows: Arrow dance by Little Chiefs, devil dance by Chief Blue Eagle, hoop dance by Chief Reindeer, Indian war dance by Chief Big Buffalo, horsetail dance by Chief Blue Eagle, stamp dance by Singer Big Buffalo, "By the Waters of Minnetonka," by Chief Big Buffalo, and war dance by Little Chiefs and Singer Johnny Buffalo.

have been invited to homes for dinner and attended church and concerts with new friends. At the conclusion of one Sunday service, one fourth of the congregation came over to introduce themselves to us. People have been interested and friendly enough to stop us and talk to us in stores and on the streets. Neighbors have made us feel at home with the trifling thoughtful things that neighbors can do—sharing food, flowers from their gardens, exchanging recipes with my wife.

" . . . there are no watchtowers, no fences with barbed wire, only the colors of dusk, houses warm with light, and in the sky, the evening star."

Re: Dies

NISEI URGED TO OPEN COUNTER OFFENSIVE

(Ed. note: The following letter was published as a letter to the editor in the Heart Mountain Sentinel, June 5. According to the editor of the Sentinel, the writer is a government employee, not WRA, who is resigning his position to enter the armed forces.)

"As you are probably aware by now, the Dies committee has picked your people as its next victim. The committee's dissolution would occur this June 30 unless Congress voted it additional funds and an additional period of life.

"The end of the Comintern having removed the force of the 'Red Menace' as an argument for the committee's life, it has suddenly discovered that there are 10,000 saboteurs and spies among your people who have been let out on work permits. Also that you are 'the best fed civilians in the world,' an argument proved by citing the gross amounts of food delivered to your camps each week—but ignoring the number of people whom such food must feed.

"I can imagine how the Denver Post and its like must have eaten up the story in your area, for even out here, normally responsible newspapers gave it first page prominence. And once again there are no organs which can tell your side of the story. PM simply did not carry anything about it, while the N. Y. Times buried the Dies release on page 45 of its Sunday edition yesterday.

"The offensive against you is starting on a national scale now. Roane Waring, national commander of the American Legion, made a speech in San Francisco last Saturday urging that all alien and disloyal Japanese be deported after the war. The corollary to this line is the argument that one cannot distinguish between loyal and disloyal evacuees ('But how can you tell them apart?' argument), and hence the door is open for a Hitler-type racist act.

"I cannot help repeating that a counter offensive by your people is essential if the United States and you are to be saved the consequences of the fascist acts now being urged. You must take steps to acquaint the American public with the fact of the existence of thousands of loyal Japanese Americans who want to serve the war effort with their whole hearts but who are being prevented from doing so by a racist attitude which would do Hitler or Hirohito proud.

"There are large groups of Americans whose sense of fair play and whose understanding of the democratic issues at stake will enable them to appreciate your position and to support it. But the time for action is growing ever shorter."

Volunteers' Letters from Heart Mountain Touch Editor's Heart

"If You Can Close Your Reason to This, Your Conscience, Your Humanity, You Are Deaf, Dumb and Blind," Says Oregonian Editorial

Of what are the nisei thinking, those youthful Americans of Japanese blood who are held in the various relocation centers? What of their loyalty? What of their disloyalty? As to the latter, none of us may answer, for obvious obstacles to clarification, but evidences of American loyalty among them are not lacking.

Lately, the Oregonian has received three communications from the Heart Mountain, Wyo., center; one in the medium of the relocation center publication, the Heart Mountain Sentinel, edited by Americans of Japanese descent; the others by the medium of letters from nisei who were born in this city. This testimony is its own comment. We shall quote first from the Sentinel, choosing a paragraph from its editorial concerning the execution of American airmen in Japan:

"The thousands of American soldiers of Japanese descent know well that they may face a similar or worse fate should they be captured. Those who volunteered recently made the decision with open eyes. Regardless of ancestry, they are Americans, too; dedicating their lives to the principles which collectively make up the American way of life. Others would do well to remember that race is the only thing that a Tokyo Jap has in common with the Japanese American and his parents—who repudiated their native land and decided thirty or forty years ago to make their future with the United States."

The letters alluded to were written, as it chances, by brothers, the sons of a Japanese professional man of long residence and practice in this city. Each of the sons was an outstanding scholar in Portland high schools. Each of these sons, it may be said without exaggeration, conscious of racial position, endeavored to be more American than his schoolmates.

Now they write from Heart Mountain, behind the barbed wire, and they write without rancor. Each testifies that he has asked for permission to serve in the armed forces, because each believes in America and the American principle, and because, when

Santa Barbara Chamber Against Evacuee Return

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Directors of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, claiming authorization by a referendum of the membership which expressed overwhelming anti-evacuee feeling, last week planned the immediate drafting of a resolution opposing any return of evacuees to the Pacific Coast for the duration, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Copies of the resolution, it was announced, will be forwarded at once to officials at Washington and to the Army command.

Six pertinent questions were asked in the membership referendum, with the following results:

First, Do you believe it desirable that Japanese who are considered loyal to the United States be permitted to return to the Pacific Coast during the war? Yes, 14; No, 197.

Second, Does the opinion expressed in answer to question No. 1 represent the attitude of your neighbors or the community in which you live? Yes, 177; No, 18.

Third, Would return, in your opinion, involve danger to our war operation? Yes, 180; No, 23.

Fourth, Is there any probability that return of Japanese would jeopardize their personal safety? Yes, 177; No, 21.

Fifth, Would their return cause resentment which would interrupt war production? Yes, 158; No, 34.

Sixth, Is it desired that Japanese be permitted to return so that their labor may be utilized for agriculture or industry? Yes, 21; No, 162.

the war is at an end, with an American victory, the parents of these soldiers may receive consideration, as the father and mother of American service men. Let us quote from one letter:

"It was almost a year ago that we left home and said good-bye to our friends, our schoolmasters, and all the friendly associations with the things we loved and the people we knew back in Portland. We are waiting our call for induction, so that we can go down to Camp Shelby in Mississippi and train with the nisei from Hawaii, and others from all parts of the United States, to form a crack combat unit. Perhaps you read in the newspapers the other day that three nisei soldiers were awarded the decoration called the Legion of Merit for valorous services. It is hard to be cooped up behind barbed wire, with doubts cast on our loyalty, while everyone else is given a chance to defend his country. We consider it a duty and privilege to serve, so that when peace returns again, we can stand up beside our friends and buddies and say that we, too, had a share in winning the war.

"We hope some day to see you again in Portland, but it will be after we have taken care of some unfinished business overseas. It will be a peaceful world, then, and perhaps we can pick up again all that we had to sacrifice a year ago. Sincerely, Heart Mountain, Wyo."

If you can close your reason to this, your heart, your conscience, your humanity, you are deaf, dumb and blind. And the Lord pity you, for the seeds of strife are in you still. — Editorial in The Oregonian, May 28, 1943.

Dies Committee Opens Hearings On Japanese Americans

(Continued from Page 1). were the main reason for some refusing to work.

On Wednesday the subcommittee, headed by Representative Costello of California, heard from A. W. Emple, chief administrative officer at Poston, that there had been some instances of insubordination by evacuees at the center, but that the strike there last November had been free of violence. The only loss of government property at that time, he said, was one case of milk.

Emple testified that the WRA, the secretary of the interior and the Indian service had agreed on establishing the evacuee center at Poston as part of a long-range program under which is planned an eventual settling of southwest Indian tribes in that region. He disclosed that \$10,000,000 was set aside for the extension of the irrigation system on the Indian settlement project. He estimated the cost of reclaiming the 5000 acres for the evacuee camp was about \$3,000,000.

The Poston official said the older evacuees were glad to work the land, but that some of the younger ones were not too enthusiastic. Sixty per cent of the evacuees at the center were farmers before evacuation, he added.

Emple disclaimed knowledge of any WRA plan to return evacuees to California after the war, and told Representative Costello that he did not know of any section where they would be welcome.

The hearing, originally scheduled to open Monday, was postponed one day pending arrival from the east of two subcommittee members. Representatives Herman P. Eberharter, Democrat of Pennsylvania, and Karl E. Mundt, Republican of South Dakota.

It was believed the inquiry will continue from ten days to two weeks. According to previous announcements, the Los Angeles hearing will be followed by a public hearing in Washington at which Director Dillon S. Myer of the WRA will be called to testify.

EVACUEE FARM LABOR OPPOSED BY NEVADA HEAD

RENO, Nevada — Governor Carville last week objected strongly to a proposal that Japanese Americans now in relocation centers be used as farm laborers this summer during Nevada's manpower shortage, according to the Associated Press.

"We cannot understand the government's policy of coddling a people whose devotion to our country is debatable at best" the Governor was quoted.

Controversy over the employment of evacuees reached a new high in Nevada, it was reported, after A. Clair Barrett, representative of the War Relocation Authority, announced a WRA office had been established here to facilitate employment of Japanese Americans.

Amendment Planned For Deportation Of Disloyal Evacuees

WASHINGTON — Representative Sheppard of California announced last Thursday that a proposed amendment to United States nationality laws paving the way for ultimate deportation of Japanese Americans who acknowledge loyalty to Emperor Hirohito will be considered soon by the House Immigration and Naturalization Committee, a Los Angeles Times correspondent reported.

Believes Supreme Court May Ask Rehearing on Evacuation

Report on Cases Is Made by Hirabayashi Committee Secretary

CODY, Wyo.—Mrs. Mary Farquharson, secretary-treasurer of the Hirabayashi defense committee, speaking to a number of groups here last week, expressed belief that the Supreme Court may ask for a rehearing of the evacuation cases because of the great importance and interest attached to them, the Heart Mountain Sentinel reported.

Mrs. Farquharson, visiting the center after attending the Supreme Court hearings in Washington, explained various phases of the case in speaking to the residents here.

A decision on the cases is not expected until fall, now that the court has adjourned for the summer, Mrs. Farquharson thought. She said that a strong part of the defense is based on the "due process" clause of the Fifth Amendment, which provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. A hearing is the minimum protection to which evacuees were entitled, she added.

She condemned discrimination because of the danger it presents to democracy. "Violation of the rights of any group means a threat to all other groups," she said. "Test cases like these are

valuable to democracy because they are part of an educational campaign. They help to counteract fear, and a general belief that evacuation was necessary."

Mrs. Farquharson praised the JACL brief submitted to the Supreme Court for its material on the background of nisei and the evacuation.

Sacramento Group Says Nisei Unfit For Human Race

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sacramento's Home Front Commandos, according to the Sacramento Bee of June 4, believe that "No Jap is now fit to associate with human beings," because all are "treacherous, faithless, untrustworthy, irresponsible, inhuman, depraved, ungodly, soul-less and disloyal."

The Commandos, the Bee reports, are setting out now to solve the evacuee problem before "pacifists, religious cliques and the brotherly love gang frustrate anything that may be attempted when peace comes."

The group, it was reported, sets forth fifteen objectives, most of which aim to deport all aliens, regardless of origin, prevent any evacuees from carrying on business, securing employment or fishing in American waters.

Attention, Nisei

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